AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 18, 23, 24, 29, 34, 35, and 38-45 have been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, no claims are currently amended, and no claims are newly presented.

1. (Original)   A method for providing advanced interactive voice response services within a telecommunications network, comprising the steps of:

defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing said customer application file on the node to handle a call.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said defining step comprises the steps of:

defining rules under which each of said set of service-independent building blocks operate;

defining inputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks; and

defining outputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step comprises the step of:

using a sequence of at least one of the following of said set of service-independent

building blocks:

Audio;

Branch;

Bridge;

Call;

Conference;

Database;

Entry;

Exit;

FAX;

Hangup;

Input;

Interrupt;

Jump;

Manipulate;

Menu;

Park;

Provision; and

Record.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein said creating step further comprises the steps of:

storing said set of customer specific data in an advanced network database of said server to create a customer specific data file.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising:

assigning said customer application file an identification number associated with said customer specific data file.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein said executing step comprises the steps of:

retrieving said customer application file using said application identification number;

retrieving said customer specific data file from said advanced network database; and

using said set of customer specific data in said customer specific data file as inputs into said sequence of said set of service-independent building blocks.

8. (Original)   A system for providing advanced interactive voice response services within a telecommunications network, comprising:

means for defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

means for creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network,

wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

means for retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.

9. (Original)   The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for executing said customer application file on the node to handle a call.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said defining means comprises:

first defining means for defining rules under which each of said set of service-independent building blocks operate;

second defining means for defining inputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks; and

third defining means for defining outputs for each of said set of service-independent building blocks.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said creating means comprises:

means for using a sequence of at least one of the following of said set of service-independent building blocks:

Audio;

Branch;

Bridge;

Call;

Conference;

Database;

Entry;

Exit;

FAX;

Hangup;

Input;

Interrupt;

Jump;

Manipulate;

Menu;

Park;

Provision; and

Record.

12. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 9, wherein said defining means further comprises:

means for storing said set of customer specific data in an advanced network database of said applications server to create a customer specific data file.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

means for assigning said customer application file an identification number associated with said customer specific data file; and

second means for storing said customer application file on the server.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said means for executing comprises:

first means for retrieving said customer application file using said application identification number;

second means for retrieving said customer specific data file from said advanced network database; and

means for using said set of customer specific data in said customer specific data file as inputs into said sequence of said set of service-independent building blocks.

15. (Previously Presented)   A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code means embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer that provides a system for providing advanced interactive voice response services, said computer readable program code means performing the following steps:

defining a reusable set of service-independent building blocks in a node of said telecommunications network;

creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks; and

retrieving said customer application file for execution by said node from said server over a communications network.

16. (Previously Presented)   A method for supporting an interactive voice response (IVR) service, the method comprising:

reeeiving a message associated with a call invoking the IVR service, the message specifying an application identifier corresponding to a customer application file providing a call plan; and

retrieving the customer application file based on the application identifier, wherein the customer application file is created according to a plurality of reusable, application independent software modules that receive customer specific data as inputs, the customer specifie data being stored as a file in a database.

17. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 16, further comprising:

executing the customer application file to handle the call.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 16, wherein the modules in the retrieving step are associated with a plurality of primitives relating to call handling.

20. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 19, wherein a set of the primitives is bundled to support a common function.

21. (Previously Presented)   A system for supporting an interactive voice response (IVR) service, the system comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a message associated with a call invoking the IVR service, the message specifying an application identifier corresponding to a customer application file providing a call plan;

an application engine coupled to the communication interface and configured to retrieve the customer application file based on the application identifier, wherein the customer application file is created according to a plurality of reusable, application independent software modules that receive customer specific data as inputs; and

a database configured to store the customer specific data as a file.

22. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 21, wherein the application engine executes the customer application file to handle the call.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 21, wherein the modules are associated with a plurality of primitives relating to call handling.

26. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 25, wherein a set of the primitives is bundled to support a common function.

27. (Previously Presented)   A method for supporting an interactive voice response (IVR) service, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a customer application file that specifies a call plan, the request including an application identifier corresponding to the customer application file; and

transmitting the customer application file in response to the request, wherein the customer application file is created according to a plurality of reusable, application independent software modules that receive customer specific data as inputs, the customer specific data being stored as a file in a database.

28. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 27, wherein the customer application file is transmitted to an application engine for execution of the customer application file.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 27, wherein the modules in the transmitting step are associated with a plurality of primitives relating to call handling.

31. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 30, wherein a set of the primitives is bundled to support a common function.

32. (Previously Presented)   A system for supporting an interactive voice response (IVR) service, the system comprising:

a controller configured to receive a request for a customer application file that specifies a call plan, the request including an application identifier corresponding to the customer application file;

a communication interface coupled to the controller and configured to transmit the customer application file in response to the request, wherein the customer application file is created according to a plurality of reusable, application independent software modules that receive customer specific data as inputs; and

a database configured to store the customer specific data as a file.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the customer application file is transmitted to an application engine for execution of the customer application file.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the modules are associated with a plurality of primitives relating to call handling.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein a set of the primitives is bundled to support a common function.

38 - 45. (Canceled)